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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

September 20, 2001

VOTE YES ON H.R. 2586

VOTE YES FOR MILITARY READINESS AND QUALITY OF LIFE

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI
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ROBERT S. RANGEL, STAFF DIRECTOR

Dear Colleague:

The readiness of our military's forces is the responsibility of every Member of Congress, and that responsibility includes providing our military forces the necessary resources to go in harm's way with the best equipment and training available.


For too many years, we have allowed our military to do more and more with less and less. At the same time, we have continued to hear from military leaders that the annual budget requests were significantly short in some of the critical readiness accounts. This year, the Administration has attempted to address some of those concerns.

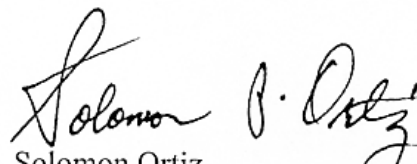
To accomplish this, the Administration has had to significantly increase readiness funding this year as compared to last year. As an example, funding for flight operations has increased by over \$2.2 billion, which includes the increased costs for fuel and attempts to address severe spare parts shortages. In addition, there is an increase for training of over \$825 million, an increase for facilities repair and sustainment of nearly \$500 million, and an increase of \$1.2 billion for depot maintenance and repair of equipment. H.R. 2586 supports these increases.

The Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, H.R. 2586, provides the military services the minimal level of funding necessary to maintain readiness and to help reduce the continued stress on our military forces. H.R. 2586 ensures that our military remains the best-trained, best-equipped, and most effective force in the world. It does not provide all of the funds needed as identified in the Services' Unfunded Lists, but it does provide some resources for the most critical direct readiness related accounts. To do anything less would allow the readiness of our military to slip further, and could risk the lives of countless men and women in every branch of the military.

Vote YES on H.R. 2586. Vote yes to maintain military readiness.

Sincerely,


Curt Weldon
Chairman,
Readiness Subcommittee


Solomon Ortiz
Ranking Member,
Readiness Subcommittee